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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 28 June-23 July 2004
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2004 in section I and the annotations to the provisional agenda in section II.

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I. Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2004 of the Council has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 2004 (decision 2004/203).

Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2004

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council;

   (b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

   (a) Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;

   (b) Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

General segment

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:

   (a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development;

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

(a) Reports of coordination bodies;

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007;

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti;

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;

(f) Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict;

(g) Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force;

(h) Tobacco or health.

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Regional cooperation.

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

12. Non-governmental organizations.

13. Economic and environmental questions:

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Science and technology for development;

(c) Statistics;

(d) Human settlements;

(e) Environment;

(f) Population and development;

(g) Public administration and development;

(h) International cooperation in tax matters;

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests;

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

(k) Cartography;

(l) Women and development.

14. Social and human rights questions:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Social development;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) Narcotic drugs;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(g) Human rights;

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its organizational session for 2004, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its substantive session (Council decision 2004/203).

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2005 of the Council.

Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Council

At its organizational session for 2004, the Council decided to include in the agenda of its substantive session of 2004 the application for observer status with the Council of the World Deserts Foundation, an intergovernmental organization (Council decision 2004/208).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the 2005 substantive session of the Council

Letter dated 18 August 2003 from the President of the World Deserts Foundation to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/2004/7)

A. High-level segment

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council will devote the first day of the high-level segment to a high-level policy dialogue with the executive heads of international trade and finance institutions on key issues on the global economy.

2. Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Council will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the theme (Council decision 2003/287). The report will incorporate inputs from a number of relevant United Nations organizations and draw upon the outcomes of special preparatory round tables of the Council held on 17 February and 17 and 18 March 2004.

The Council will also have before it the World Economic and Social Survey, 2004, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 52/180 and Council resolution 1983/50, and the relevant part of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the theme

World Economic and Social Survey, 2004

Relevant part of the report of the Committee on Development Policy on its sixth session

B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

In its resolution 56/201, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session, through the Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of that resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in its resolution 2003/3, paragraph 37, requested the Secretary-General to focus the analysis for the triennial comprehensive policy review in 2004, in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, pursuant to the guidelines set out in that resolution.

In paragraph 28 of the same resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General, in due consultation with the funds and programmes of the United Nations system, through the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, to submit to the next substantive session of the Council in 2004, a report on the assessment of the value added of the joint meetings of their Executive Boards, and their impact on the operational activities segment of the Council, and to make recommendations as appropriate.

The Council will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund (Council resolution 2003/4).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the triennial comprehensive policy review

Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the value added of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2002 (General Assembly resolution 35/81)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund

Consolidated list of issues related to the coordination of operational activities (E/2004/CRP.__) (Council resolution 1998/27, para. 4)

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

The Council will also have before it the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, and the report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the work of the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, including their overall financial picture, as well as the annual reports of the four funds and programmes (Council resolution 1994/33).

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in its resolution 2003/3, paragraph 25, requested the United Nations funds and programmes to enhance and accelerate their simplification and harmonization efforts to ensure full implementation of the programme of work submitted in 2002 before the end of 2004.

Documentation

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session of 2003 and its first regular session and annual session of 2004

Annual reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (E/2004/4-DP/2004/12) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (E/2004/5-DP/FPA/2004/2)

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session and its annual session of 2004

Annual report to the Economic and Social Council of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/2004/3-E/ICEF/2004/4)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 2003 sessions (E/2004/36, Supplement No. 16)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

C. Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (General Assembly resolution 45/264, annex)

At its substantive session of 2003, in its decision 2003/287, the Council adopted the following themes for the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2004: (a) review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system; and (b) coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

(a) Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Council will have before it a report on the sub-theme, including a section on the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Council resolution 2003/49). See also items 7 (e) and 14 (a).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (also under items 7 (e) and 14 (a))

(b) Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development

The Council will have before it a report on the sub-theme prepared in close cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system, notably the Rome-based organizations and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its organizational session for 2004, the Council decided that the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Council would be: "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations: present and future challenges".[1]

At its fifty-seventh session, in its resolution 57/104 on assistance to Mozambique, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, through the Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session in 2004, on the implementation of that resolution.

At its fifty-eighth session, in its resolution 58/114, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, through the Council at its substantive session of 2004, on the progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the implementation of and follow-up to Council resolution 2003/5.

In accordance with Council resolution 1983/46, the Secretary-General orally apprises the Council annually on the status of the assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique

E. General segment

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2003/67), and, in this regard, requested the Secretary-General to update the report and its recommendations in the light of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B and to submit if for consideration by the Council at its next substantive session (Council resolution 2003/6).

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B

[1] Adopted ad referendum at the informal consultations held by the Council on 19 March 2004.

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the President of the Council, with support from the Vice-Presidents, to enhance the Council's interactions through regular exchanges with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on organizational matters related to the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, within the context of the preparations of the high-level meeting with those institutions, bearing in mind Assembly resolution 57/270 B and Council resolution 2003/47, and to report thereon to the Council (Assembly resolution 58/230).

Documentation

President's summary of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council stressed the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Council (Council resolution 2003/17).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to submit, through the Council, an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action (Assembly resolution 58/228).

Documentation

Annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

7. Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Board machinery in 2003.

The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-fourth session (Headquarters, 7 June-2 July 2004) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-fourth session (A/59/16)

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007

In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the programmes of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant programmes of the strategic framework for the biennium in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter, with a view to submitting its own recommendations thereon to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1988/77).

See also General Assembly resolution 58/269 on the strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change.

Documentation

Relevant programmes of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (relevant fascicles of A/59/6)

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-fourth session (A/59/16)

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, its work of facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and of continuing the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2004 on the action taken to follow up on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate (Council resolution 2003/48).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the action taken to follow up on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, including the findings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics and an assessment of its work and mandate

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council requested that the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Haiti, report on progress achieved in implementing the long-term programme of support for Haiti and also requested that the report be prepared for the Council on the basis of developments in Haiti (Council resolution 2003/46).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in implementing the long-term programme of support for Haiti

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. The report will also contain a section on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 58/148, Council resolution 2003/49 and Council decision 2003/287). See also under items 4 (a) and 14 (a).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (also under items 4 (a) and 14 (a))

(f) Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council reiterated the need to undertake an assessment of lessons learned based on the initial experience of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi and Guinea-Bissau, no later than at its substantive session of 2004, stressed the need to assess also progress achieved in the implementation of recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups, and requested the Secretary-General to provide a report on the subject to the Council at its substantive session in 2004 (Council resolution 2003/50).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on lessons learned from the initial experience of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi and Guinea-Bissau including an assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

(g) Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force

At its substantive session of 2001, the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary steps to establish the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force (Council decision 2001/210). The ICT Task Force submits an annual report to the Secretary-General focusing on the major emerging issues, including recommendations thereon, in the context of information and communication technologies.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force

(h) Tobacco or health

At its substantive session of 2002, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its substantive session of 2004, a report on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (Council decision 2002/242).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

The Council devoted the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2003 to the following theme: "The role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits".

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in resolution 2003/6, adopted as an outcome of its coordination segment, decided to undertake the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B that were relevant to the work of the Council and its subsidiary machinery and to keep that implementation under review. In the same resolution, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2003/67), and, in that regard, requested the Secretary-General to update the report and its recommendations in the light of Assembly resolution 57/270 B and to submit the updated report for consideration by the Council at its next substantive session.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 50/227 (annex I, para. 59), the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment should be followed up in the general segment of the following year.

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian People. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, through the Council, on the implementation of Assembly resolution 58/113 on the subject.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions

associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in its resolution 2003/51, requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council; and requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of that resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2004. See also General Assembly resolution 58/111.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

10. Regional cooperation

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein. The report will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the regional commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council. A section of the report will deal with the following question: "Information technology for development: a regional perspective" (Council decision 2004/213).

The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions (Council decision 1979/1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 2003

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 2003

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 2004

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2003

Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2003-2004

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in its resolution 2003/59, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of that resolution and to continue to include, in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/59

12. Non-governmental organizations

Pursuant to its resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31, the Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the work of the first part of its 2004 session (Headquarters, 10-28 May 2004) and take action on the recommendations contained therein.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the first part of its 2004 session (E/2004/32 (Part I))

13. Economic and environmental questions

The General Assembly, in resolution 57/270 B, paragraph 49, urged the Council to make better use of the existing consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions and to dedicate more time to its review.

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in its resolution 2003/6, decided to take the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B that were relevant to the work of the Council and its subsidiary machinery and to keep that implementation under review.

The Council will have before it the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions in 2004 to help it review the work of the functional commissions. See also under the chapeau of item 14.

At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974). Article 34 of the Charter provided that the Assembly should carry out periodically a systematic and comprehensive consideration of the implementation of the Charter. At its thirtieth session, the Assembly, inter alia, decided to entrust the Council with the task of reviewing the implementation of the Charter with a view to preparing adequately the above-mentioned systematic and comprehensive consideration by the Assembly (resolution 3486 (XXX) of 12 December 1975). In accordance with article 34, the review is to be undertaken every five years. The Council considered the issue at its substantive sessions of 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1994. In 1999, the review was embodied in the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly on the

implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/54/389).

Documentation

Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Council in 2004 (also under the chapeau of item 14)

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/59/___-E/2004/__)

(a) Sustainable development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its twelfth session (Headquarters, 19-30 April 2004). The provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2003/289.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee for Development Policy on the work of its sixth session (Headquarters, 29 March-2 April 2004).

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/218, requested the Secretary-General to strengthen system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and in that regard to report on such inter-agency cooperation and coordination activities to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Council in 2004.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its twelfth session (E/2004/29, Supplement No. 9)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixth session (E/2004/33, Supplement No. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (E/2004/12-E/CN.17/2004/3)

(b) Science and technology for development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the work of its seventh session (Geneva, 24-28 May 2004). The provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2003/293.

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly, having recalled its resolution 56/183 and welcomed the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, invited the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union to submit to the Assembly for information, at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, through the Council, a report on the preparation for the Summit. The first

phase of the Summit was held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase will be held in Tunis in 2005 (Assembly resolution 57/238).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its seventh session (E/2004/31, Supplement No. 11)

Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the outcome of the first phase and progress in the preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (General Assembly resolution 57/238)

(c) Statistics

The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-fifth session (Headquarters, 2-5 March 2004). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2004/215.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-fifth session (E/2004/24, Supplement No. 4)

(d) Human settlements

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 2004 on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Council resolution 2003/62).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

(e) Environment

The Council will have before it the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session (Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 29-31 March 2004).

The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3). The Governing Council meets in regular sessions every two years in odd-numbered years and in special sessions in alternate years (Assembly resolution 53/242).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session (A/59/25, Supplement No. 25)

(f) Population and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on the work of its thirty-seventh session (Headquarters, 22-26 March 2004). The provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2003/229.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-seventh session (E/2004/25, Supplement No. 5)

(g) Public administration and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its third session (Headquarters, 29 March-2 April 2004). The provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee was approved by the Council in its resolution 2003/60.

At its substantive session in 2003, the Council decided that the Committee of Experts on Public Administration should meet annually, instead of biennially, for one week. The Council also decided that the Committee, within the framework decided upon in General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, should contribute to the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its third session (E/2004/44, Supplement No. 24)

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

The Council will have before it report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 15-19 December 2003). The provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting was approved by the Council in its decision 2002/231. See also General Assembly resolution 58/230.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-Genial on the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its eleventh meeting

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests

The Council will have before it the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fourth session (Geneva, 3-14 May 2004). The provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum was approved by the Council in its decision 2003/298.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fourth session (E/2004/42, Supplement No. 22)

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited the Council to continue its consideration of the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, and decided to transmit the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, together with the relevant background materials, to the Council at its substantive session of 2004 (Assembly resolution 58/80)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/58/346)

Note by the Secretary-General on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

(k) Cartography

The Council will have before it report of the Secretary-General on the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) and 1314 (XLIV) and Council decision 2003/294) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Council resolution 476 (XV)).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

(l) Women and development

For consideration of this sub-item, the Council will have before it relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session (General Assembly resolution 42/178 and Council resolution 1987/24).

Documentation

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session (E/2004/27, Supplement No. 7)

14. Social and human rights questions

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Council in 2004 so as to assist the Council in its review of reports of the functional commissions (Council agreed conclusions 2002/1). See the annotations on the report of the Secretary-General under the chapeau of item 13.

Documentation

Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Council in 2004 (also under the chapeau of item 13)

(a) Advancement of women

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session (Headquarters, 1-12 March 2004). The provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2003/237.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women shall report annually on its activities to the Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

The Council will have before the annual report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly including progress in the area of gender mainstreaming. The report will be combined with the report under item 4 (a) of the coordination segment (Assembly resolution 58/148 and Council resolution 2003/49). See also under item 7 (e).

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council, in its resolution 2003/57 on the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, decided to amend articles III and IV of the statute of the Institute. Article III was amended to replace the Board of Trustees with an Executive Board. Article IV was amended with regard to the Director and staff of the Institute. The Council also requested the Director of the Institute, in consultation with the Executive Board, to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council at its substantive session in 2004.

The Council will have before it the report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twenty-third session and the report of the Director of the Institute. The Institute functions under the authority of the Executive Board, which reports annually to the Council (Council resolution 1998 (LX)).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session (E/2004/27, Supplement No. 7)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/59/38, Supplement No. 38)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (also under items 4 (a) and 7 (e))

Report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the revitalization and strengthening of the Institute

(b) Social development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-second session (Headquarters, 4-13 February 2004). The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2003/230.

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-second session (E/2004/26, Supplement No. 6)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirteenth session (Vienna, 11-20 May 2004). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2003/233.

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its thirteenth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to finalize in good time all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations through the Council to the Assembly (Assembly resolution 58/138).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirteenth session (E/2004/30, Supplement No. 10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

(d) Narcotic drugs

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-seventh session (Vienna, 15-22 March 2004). The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2003/235.

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 2003.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-seventh session (E/2004/28, Supplement No. 8)

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 (E/INCB/2003/1)

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should make an annual oral report to the Council to keep it informed of the coordination aspects of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and should continue the existing practice, as established in paragraph 11 of its statute (Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex), of presenting an annual written report to the Assembly (Assembly resolution 58/153).

Also at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and to present an oral report to the Council at its substantive session of 2004 (Assembly resolution 58/149).

Documentation

No advance documentation has been requested

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

At its fifty-eighth session, in paragraphs 41 and 42 of section IV of its resolution 58/160, the General Assembly decided, after having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the extent of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to close the Third Decade and also decided, as part of the activities to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to place emphasis on the concrete implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001.

In paragraph 30 of section III of the same resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Council should oversee the system-wide coordination of the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Council will have before it the reports submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session, bearing the following symbols: E/CN.4/2004/17 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3, E/CN.4/2004/20, E/CN.4/2004/21 and E/CN.4/2004/112.

Documentation

No advance documentation has been requested

(g) Human rights

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its sixtieth session (Geneva, 15 March-23 April 2004).

The Council will have before it the general comments of the Human Rights Committee. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. The complete report of the Committee is submitted to the Assembly pursuant to Council decision 1985/105.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions (Geneva, 5-23 May and 10-28 November 2003).

The Council will also have before it the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Assembly resolution 48/141).

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee submits to the General Assembly, through the Council, every two years, reports on its activities (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex, article 44, para. 5).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its sixtieth session (E/2004/23, Supplement No. 3)

Report of the Human Rights Committee

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions (E/2004/22, Supplement No. 2)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Council will have before it the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its third session (Headquarters, 10-21 May 2004). The provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Forum were approved by the Council in its decision 2003/305.

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council decided to postpone consideration to its substantive session in 2004 of the review mandated by its decision 2002/286 of 25 July 2002 of all existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous issues with a view to rationalizing activities, avoiding duplication and overlap and promoting effectiveness; and to request the Secretary-General to seek information related to the review from those Governments, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples organizations and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system, including the special mechanisms seized with indigenous issues, that had not yet submitted their views (Council decision 2003/307). The Council also decided to request the Secretary-General, on the basis of the information received, to provide additional

substantive analysis addressing the elements contained in paragraph 8 of its resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000.

At its fiftieth session, in its resolution 50/157 on the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the General Assembly requested the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, in his capacity as Coordinator of the Decade, to support its activities related to indigenous people, in particular to plan, coordinate and implement activities of the Decade; and decided that the programme of activities for the Decade, as contained in the annex to that resolution, might be reviewed and updated throughout the Decade and that at the midpoint of the Decade the Council and the Assembly should review the results of the activities to identify obstacles to the achievement of the goals of the Decade and to recommend solutions for overcoming those obstacles. As stated in paragraph 16 of the annex to Assembly resolution 50/157, the Council should hold mid-term and end-term reviews of the Decade in accordance with its resolution 1988/63 of 27 July 1988.

Documentation

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its third session (E/2004/43, Supplement No. 23)

Report of the Secretary-General on the information concerning indigenous issues requested in paragraph (e) of Council decision 2001/316

Report of the Coordinator of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People on the activities of the United Nations system in relation to the Decade

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

At its substantive session of 2003, the Council decided to postpone the consideration of the question of genetic privacy and non-discrimination to its substantive session of 2004 to allow for a thorough review of that matter and its implications for ethical, legal, medical, employment-related and other aspects of social life, on the basis, inter alia, of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2003/91 and Add.1) requested by the Council in its resolution 2001/39 (Council decision 2003/232).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the information and comments received from Governments and relevant organizations and functional commissions pursuant to Council resolution 2001/39 and Council decision 2003/232